

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY: S/S- O: M. TANNER

APPROVED BY: S/S- O M TANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103246 TOSEC 110331

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM ALGIERS DTD 29 APR 1976 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1095

STADIS

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AG

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN ATTITUDES AS REPORTED BY JOSEPH KRAFT

1. COLUMNIST JOSEPH KRAFT VISITED ALGIERS APRIL 15-24 IN CONNECTION WITH PIECE HE IS DOING FOR NEW YORKER. WAS RECEIVED BY NUMBER LEADING ALGERIANS, INCLUDING BOUMEDIENE, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY ABDESSELAM AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE YAKER. HE CAME WITH SEVERAL IDEAS IN MIND WHICH HE WISHED TO PRUSUE. ONE OF THEM WAS THAT ALGERIA HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN THIRD WORLD BECAUSE REVOLUTION WAS FALTERING. ANOTHER WAS THAT ALGERIA HAD BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN OPEC KIDNAPPING, WHICH IT SAW AS MEANS PUTTING PRESSURE ON LESS RADICAL MEMBERS THAT ORGANIZATION.

2. WE WISH TO FLAG TWO ASPECTS HIS CONVERSATION WITH  
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ABDESSELAM. FIRST, HE FOUND ABDESSELAM IN ANTI-AMERICAN

MOOD, COMPLAINING ABOUT U.S. SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO IN SAHARA  
CONTEST IN SPITE MODERATE ROLE ALGERIANS HAD PLAYED IN CIEC  
AND MIDDLE EAST, AND IN SPITE ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF  
BUSINESS THROWN OUR WAY. ABDESSELAM SAID AT ONE POINT  
LEAST WE COULD DO WAS TO MAKE PRONOUNCEMENT IN SUPPORT  
PRESENT DEMARCATION LINE AS FINAL BORDER BETWEEN MOROCCO AND  
ALGERIA. THIS IS FIRST TIME, TO OUR RECOLLECTION, IDEA  
OF SUCH A DECLARATION HAS SURFACED. IMAGINE ABDESSELAM  
WAS SPEAKING OFF THE CUFF, BUT HIS REMARK IS WORTH NOTING  
AS REFLECTION LOCAL CONCERNS, INFORMED OR OTHERWISE, THAT WE  
MAY SUPPORT MOROCCAN DESIGNS ON ALGERIAN TERRITORY.

3. SECOND, HE ASKED ABDESSELAM IF ALGERIANS CONNECTED WITH  
OPEC KIDNAPPING. ABDESSELAM REPLIED TO EFFECT THAT ANYONE  
WHO WITNESSED EFFORTS ALGERIANS MADE AND PROBLEMS THEY  
HAD SAVING LIVES WOULD KNOW THAT THEY COULD NOT HAVE HAD ANY  
ROLE IN AFFAIR, EVEN THOUGH CERTAIN UNSPECIFIED ALGERIAN  
"GROUPS" MIGHT HAVE BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO OPERATION. KRAFT  
SAYS HE STRUCK BY FACT THIS WAS ONLY PARTIAL DENIAL BY  
ABDESSELAM AND IS PERSUADED THAT ALGERIANS WERE INVOLVED.  
WE HAVE TOLD HIM WE THINK THAT HIGHLY UNLIKELY, AND SO HAVE  
NUMBER OF WELL-INFORMED ALGERIANS. HE OBVIOUSLY HAS HIS  
MIND SET ON HIS HYPOTHESIS, HOWEVER, PERHAPS RELYING ON  
INFORMATION GIVEN TO HIM BY PERSONS OUTSIDE ALGERIA (THE  
MOROCCANS?) AND WHICH HE THINKS IS RELIABLE. WE PRESUME  
HE WILL WRITE ACCORDINGLY. PARKER  
UNQTE SISCO

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